CLAIMS

 A telecommunications service session control system comprising at least one server and in use interacting with software objects derived from an application programming interface, said application programming interface comprising:

a first framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a client machine during participation in a service session;

a second framework object class for deriving service specific object

10 classes to be instantiated on a server during a service session, said second class representing said service session; and

a third framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during participation in a service session, said third class representing said participation.

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2. A data store holding an application programming interface for use in developing multi-party services to be implemented on a telecommunications service session control system, said application programming interface comprising:

a first framework object class for deriving service specific object classes

20 to be instantiated on a client machine during participation in a service session;

a second framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during a service session, said second class representing said service session; and

a third framework object class for deriving service specific object classes to be instantiated on a server during participation in a service session, said third class representing said participation.

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3. A system or a data store according to claim 1 or 2, said second class comprising methods intended to be overridden in said service specific object classes, said methods being for receiving calls from said system indicating changes in participant status during a service session.

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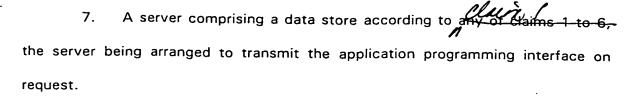
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4. A system or a data store according to claim 1, 2 or 3, said third class comprising methods intended to be overridden in said service specific object classes, said methods being responsive to messages from said system indicating changes in participant status during a service session.

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5. A system or a data store according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said second class comprises a method for identifying characteristics of a plurality of service specific objects derived from said third class and instantiated during a service session.

6. A system or a data store according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said third class comprises a method for identifying characteristics of a plurality of service specific objects derived from said third class and instantiated during a service session.



8. A service development system for generating service specific application parts to be implemented in a distributed manner in a telecommunications service session control system, said system comprising:

a service component constructor:

for storing data defining a plurality of framework components to be distributed between a client station and a server, and a plurality of customisation components for customising said framework components in a service-specific manner;

for generating data defining a first user interface for representing said framework components and said customisation components as icons on a visual display means; and

for defining relationships between said framework components and said customisation components to generate customised components by operations on said first user interface;

a control system simulator for simulating the interfaces and functionality

20 provided by said telecommunications service session control system; and

a service tester:

for generating interactions between said control system simulator and said customised components; and

for generating data defining a second user interface for representing participation in a service session via said telecommunications service

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session control system, on a visual display means, in response to said interactions.

- 9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said data defining a second5 user interface represents a plurality of participations in said service session.
 - 10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said service tester is responsive to user input to specify the number of said participations.
- 10. 11. A system according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said service tester is responsive to user input to specify the state of participation of a participant in said service session.